

**Wildfire Suppression
Emergency Support Function #4a
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

LEAD AGENCY: Colorado State Forest Service.

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: Governor's Office; Division of Emergency Management; Division of Fire Safety; Department of Corrections; Department of Military Affairs; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Transportation; Colorado State Patrol.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ESF is to provide procedure for the response to wildfires within the state that exceed the capabilities of local and county resources to manage.

II. SCOPE

The scope of this ESF is to describe the general response of the Colorado State Forest Service and other supporting agencies in response to an emergency wildfire incident in Colorado.

III. SITUATION

Wildfires occur as unscheduled emergency events in wildland fuels (prairie or forest vegetation) and also in fuels that include a combination of wildland and man-introduced fuels (houses and improvements). Wildfires involve or threaten human life, residential housing, other improvements, and natural resources. Due to natural fuels build-up and increased population in wildland urban interface areas, wildfires exceeding the control efforts of local and county resources are becoming more common and more complex. Wildland firefighting in Colorado is interagency in nature involving state, county, local, Federal, and tribal partners. Colorado State Forest Service is the organizational bridge between Federal agencies and county/local partners.

IV. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Wildfires which exceed the capabilities of local and county resources will occur.
- B. Wildfires will threaten lives, property, and natural resources.

- C. Successful management of catastrophic wildfires will require organized interagency cooperation at all levels of government.
- D. Agreements are in place between local, county, State, Federal, and tribal entities defining cooperation, roles, and access to resources.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (also see flow chart following text)

- A. Wildfires that exceed county capabilities and/or pose significant threat to the state will be managed by the Colorado State Forest Service within the protocol of existing local, county, State, Federal, and tribal agreements. (Agreements are listed in Section XI)
- B. CSFS will utilize all resources available under existing agreements and with assistance of the supporting state agencies to this ESF 4a to safely, efficiently, and effectively manage wildfires.
- C. Ordering and tracking of resources is accomplished through six (6) Interagency Dispatch Centers and one (1) Interagency Regional Coordination Center. Agreements are in place that provide access to resources throughout the nation.

VI. ESF ACTIONS

In preparation for and execution of its fire management mission, ESF #4a will:

- A. Preparedness
 - 1. Maintain current agreements.
 - 2. Provide for the implementation of the State Wildfire Preparedness Plan.
 - 3. Provide for the training and equipping of fire departments within the limitations of available funding.
 - 4. Participate on regional and national Incident Management Teams as appropriate.
 - 5. Participate in Interagency wildfire preparedness meetings and exercises.
- B. Response
 - 1. Receive Fire Information, Fire Response or other appropriate fire information that relates to potential for CSFS fire response.
 - 2. Provide for notification of Fire Division, Area Forester, District(s) and/State Forester or his designee of all matters pertaining to potential fire incidents and information pertaining to all fire related activities as appropriate.

3. Provide for notification of Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of the Governor, and Division of Fire Safety of all information concerning the reported incident based on potential of incident to exceed county capabilities to manage or as directed by the Fire Division or State Forester. Notification of other ESF 4a supporting agencies as needed.
4. Facilitate the determination to accept incident as an EFF incident.
5. Coordinate with Federal, State, local government agencies and Dispatch Centers including Rocky Mountain Coordination Center on all appropriate issues and information related to fire restrictions or closures as situation warrants.
6. Take requests for Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) pre-positioning and relay to SEAT Coordinator. Pursues requests and bring to closure any issue pertaining to pre-positioning or safety issues concerning SEAT.
7. Advise State Forester of CSFS personnel assigned to incidents by instate or out-of-state assignments. Track the number of and the potential need of additional CSFS personnel being assigned to incidents on a scheduled basis or as requested by State Forester, for response and or coverage needs statewide.
8. Provide for participation on Rocky Mountain Area Multi-agency Coordination Group (MAC) to set suppression priorities, designate the use of potential suppression resources, and coordinate and represent in the absence of other local governments their suppression resources.
9. Assess the need for support to area, district, State office, and Area Dispatch centers during suppression efforts.
10. Keep all CSFS Area's, Districts, Divisions, and projects informed of activities, situations, and the need for support or assistance from ESF #4a supporting agencies on any incident as needed.

C. Recovery

Provide for the turn-back of incident to local authorities as complexity levels fall within local capabilities to manage the incident.

D. Mitigation

Facilitate after action report.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Colorado State Forest Service

1. Identify, train, and provide CSFS personnel for wildfire response.
2. Task personnel, as necessary, to accomplish support responsibilities.
3. Provide assistance to local jurisdiction fire organizations, counties, state agencies, and Federal partners as requested.
4. Notify ESF #4a supporting agencies upon activation, as needed.
5. Maintain database inventories of wildfire service facilities, equipment, and key personnel throughout the state.
6. Monitor status of all wildfire service operations and provide updates to SEOC.
8. Arrange for direct liaison between fire chiefs and incident to coordinate requests for firefighting assistance in wildfire protection operations.
9. Document and report emergency disaster-related expenditures to qualify for State or Federal reimbursement.
10. Contributes to the incident after-action report.

B. Governor's Office

1. Execute annual FEMA/State Agreement
2. Implement Disaster Emergency Fund for Executive Order Suppression Declarations
3. Provide Colorado National Guard Activation
4. Execute annual Preparedness Plan

C. Division of Emergency Management

1. Provide liaison to regional wildfire Multi-Agency Coordination Group
2. Assist in coordination of National Guard activation and assistance
3. Coordinate evacuation and sheltering between local authorities, Division of Emergency Management, and Incident Management Team
4. Track and maintain list of Fire Restrictions and Fire Bans
5. Assist in and provide for back-up Rocky Mountain Interagency Coordination Center operations facilities
6. Manage wildfire Executive Order funds for transfer to CSFS

D. Department of Corrections

1. Provide trained and qualified wildfire suppression handcrews
2. Provide trained and qualified wildfire mitigation handcrews

E. Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

1. Provide Colorado NG Air Resources for wildfire suppression
2. Provide Colorado NG personnel for wildfire transportation, security, and suppression needs

F. Department of Transportation

1. Coordinate permanent and mobile electronic road signs as needed for prevention, evacuation, road closure, response, and mitigation activities
2. Provide as equipment as needed and available

G. Division of Fire Safety

Coordinate structural protection between Incident Management Team, local authorities and the Division of Emergency Management using established Interagency Wildland Dispatch Protocol and State Mobilization Plan procedures

H. Department of Natural Resources

Provide Department resources as necessary for inter-department communication and incident support.

I. Colorado State Patrol

1. Provide for evacuation from wildfire areas in coordination with local authorities
2. Provide for road closures as needed during fire suppression efforts

X. Finance Management

- A. Follows protocol established in local, county, State, Federal, and tribal agreements.
- B. CSFS follows Colorado State University Business and Finance protocol.
- C. State agencies supporting ESF #4a are responsible for providing financial support for their operations. Each agency and department is responsible for maintaining appropriate documentation to support requests for reimbursement, submitting bills in a timely fashion, and for closing out mission assignments.
- D. Each State agency is responsible for establishing effective administrative controls to guide the expenditure of funds during the emergency. Accurate activity and expenditure logs, invoices, and other financial transaction records are required for Federal reimbursement

requests. Record keeping is also necessary to facilitate closeouts and to support post-emergency audits.

- E. Governor's Executives Orders for Wildfire Incidents are coordinated between the Office of the Governor, the Office of State Planning and Budget, the Division of Emergency Management, CSFS, and Colorado State University. All appropriate business and finance rules apply.

XI. List of Documents

- A. County/State Agreement for Cooperative Fire Protection
- B. State/Federal Agreement for Cooperative Fire Protection
- C. State/FEMA Agreement for Fire Management Assistance
- D. Annual Operating Plans
- E. Colorado Mobilization Plan
- F. Cooperative Resource Rate Forms

FIRE RESPONSE FLOW CHART

